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Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: NATO, PORG, CA, IT

SUBJECT: SELECTION OF A NEW NATO DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

REFS: A. USNATO0132
B. OTTAWA 00075
C. USNATO 00073

1. EVEN ALLOWING FOR THE FACT THAT THE SYG WAS PUT IN AN AWKWARD BIND BY THE ITALIANS' "ARTFUL POLITICKING", LUNS' ACTION IN THIS CASE IS AT A MINIMUM MALADROIT AND APPEARS FROM HERE DOWNRIGHT CLUMSY. WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE ALLIES WERE NOT GIVEN AT LEAST

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THE COURTESY OF CONSULTATION BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. AS REFERENCE C POINTS OUT, THE POSITION IS NOT AN ITALIAN "SLOT". NOR HAS THERE BEEN A TRADITION, AS IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERALSHIPS, THAT ONE NATION USUALLY SUCCEEDS ITSELF IN THIS SENIOR POSITION.

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3. CONCERNING THE CANADIAN COMPLAINT, ALTHOUGH OTTAWA WAS OBVIOUSLY SLOW OFF THE MARK, THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR THEM TO BE UPSET BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. FYI: ON JANUARY 6, CANADIAN MINISTER TURNER CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE TO EXPRESS IN FORCEFUL TERMS OTTAWA'S DISMAY AT DEVELOPMENTS. TURNER SAID THE CANADIANS ARE CONSIDERING APPROACHES IN CAPITALS TO SUGGEST AN AIRING OF THIS MATTER, WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS FOR A PROCEDURAL MECHANISM WITH RESPECT TO THE NAMING OF THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS DEPUTY. END FYI.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS TRADITIONAL THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS THE FINAL SAY IN THE CHOICE OF HIS IMMEDIATE DEPUTY.

5. FURTHER, THE QUALIFICATIONS OF RINALDO PETRIGNANI FOR THE JOB OF NATO DSYG ARE EXCELLENT, AND IT WOULD BE HARD TO IDENTIFY A CANADIAN STATESMAN WHO COULD MATCH THEM.

6. ACCORDINGLY, WHEN THIS SUBJECT IS RAISED BY OTHERS, AT THE JANUARY 10 PERMREPS LUNCH, YOU SHOULD:

A. GENERALLY LEAVE THE INITIATIVE TO OTHERS.

B. INDICATE THAT WASHINGTON IS STUDYING THIS QUESTION AND IS INTERESTED IN LEARNING REACTIONS IN OTHER CAPITALS.

C. AS APPROPRIATE, EXPRESS OUR VIEW THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED SO THAT LUNS WOULD HAVE HAD THE VIEWS OF ALL BEFORE MAKING HIS DECISION.

D. CONFIRM THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AMBASSADOR PETRIGNANI.

E. AGREE, IF OTHERS POINT IT OUT, THAT OTHER COUNTRIES CAN STILL NOMINATE AND CIRCULATE THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DSYG POSITION JUST AS ITALY HAS DONE.

F. INDICATE YOU WILL REFER TO WASHINGTON ANY SUGGESTION CONCERNING REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL MECHANISMS WITH RESPECT TO THE SELECTION, TERM, ETC., OF NATO SYG AND DSYG.

G. AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE, ON FRINGES OF LUNCH, TAKE APPROPRIATE SOUNDINGS TO DETERMINE ALLIED VIEWS ON THE

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IDEA (EMPHASIZE IDEA, NOT PROPOSAL) OF CREATING A NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERALSHIP FOR LOGISTICS AND INFRA-STRUCTURE. FYI: THIS LONGSTANDING IDEA OF SPLITTING THE OVERLOADED DEFENSE SUPPORT DIVISION MIGHT CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A CANADIAN ASGY. END FYI. VANCE

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